

Inventor: David Williams
Serial No. 10/058,504

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the number of pigs seen to scour is reduced by about 17% in the first week post-weaning and is reduced by about 5% for the second through the fifth weeks post-weaning.

Argument

Applicant has amended the claims to remove the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended the independent claims to specify that the feed ingredient is for non-human animals and that the source of humic and fulvic acids is Leonardite. Applicant notes that the examiner cites GB 1263841 which discloses the use of lignite. Lignite is a low grade coal and is different from Leonardite. The examiner also cites Lown (US Patent 5626881) which teaches the use of humate as a human dietary supplement. Lown specifically teaches the use of a sand and diatomaceous earth based humate which the reference states is different from the clay base found in Leonardite. Neither of these references, taken separately or together, teach the use of Leonardite as a feed supplement for non-human animals, such as cows, pigs and chickens. If the Examiner has any questions, she may contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 22, 2004

By: 

James H. Riley II, Reg. No. 31,131
SONNENSCHNATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-1080
816-460-2478 (telephone)
816-531-7545 (facsimile)

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT